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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
14 June 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Arab-Israeli Situation Report
(As of 8:00 a.m. EDT)

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3. Syria has apparently joined Egypt in trying to smooth over any difficulties with the USSR which arose during the crisis. The ruling Baath party stated in Damascus today that it rejected "mischievous campaigns conducted by agents of America, Britain, and Israel to cast doubt on and undermine friendly relations and cooperation among the Arab people and socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union." The Egyptian press is now following the same line. Pravda today joined the happy chorus by saying that criticism in Egypt of the Soviet

State Dept. review completed

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position during last week's war "in no way reflects the position of the UAR on the sincere, friendly aid being given by the USSR and other socialist states."

4. The Shah of Iran has ordered the Iranian press to eliminate its criticism of Israel and to renew "as strongly as possible" its attacks on Nasir, with special emphasis on the Egyptian use of poison gas in Yemen.

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Directorate of Intelligence
14 June 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Arab-Israeli Situation Report
(As of 4:30 p.m. EDT)

1. Israeli Prime Minister Eshkol has backed off from Defense Minister Dayan's earlier insistence that Israel will hold on to Sinai, saying rather that Israel will remain in Sinai until "permanent arrangements" are made to insure freedom of navigation for Israel "in the international waterways" and Israel's security is assured. Foreign Minister Eban has spelled out Israeli requirements for negotiations with the Arabs, according to the Israeli radio. Eban is said to have told the US Ambassador that Israel demands four principles including mutual honoring of the cease-fire agreements and direct negotiations with the Arabs.

2. Cairo remains adamant against the possibility of participation in any direct negotiations with Israel. The Arabs have consistently refused to grant any such recognition to the State of Israel

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4. In response to an inquiry by the US Embassy in Tel Aviv, prompted by press reports of stranded Egyptian soldiers in Sinai dying of thirst, Israeli Government officials stated that Egyptian soldiers are still in Sinai who fled the main roads for fear of air or armored attack. The Israelis say that these soldiers are armed, and since shooting at convoys still occurs, Israeli troops cannot call for them to come in. When they return to the main roads they will get water and some lower ranks will be transported to the canal. Officers and sergeants will be sent to POW camps. The Israelis believe that the situation "will clear up in the next couple of days." Water supplies into Sinai from Egypt which were cut as the Israelis approached the canal were restored by the Egyptians on 13 June.

5. The Middle East News Agency reports from Cairo that an urgent meeting of the Arab foreign ministers will be held Saturday in Kuwait. All the Arab countries have reportedly agreed to attend, except for Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya whose positions are unknown.

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According to press from Tunis, Tunisia has agreed to the Sudanese call for an Arab Summit Conference and evidently will attend the preliminary meeting as well.

6. Estimates of the number of Palestinian refugees who have fled from the occupied West Bank of Jordan to the East Bank are still contradictory. Jordanian officials have now announced that 150,000 refugees have left the West Bank, but the British Embassy in Amman puts the figure at closer to 100,000, 40,000 of whom are being taken care of by East Bank relatives.

7. Cairo's semi-official newspaper al-Akhbar published today an article describing the USS Liberty as "the espionage ship." Al-Akhbar cited a Newsweek item which gave affirmation of the Liberty's role as an espionage unit of the Sixth Fleet and went on to launch a lengthy description of the alleged communications activities being conducted against Egyptian targets.

8. The Moscow press is now giving credit for the recent hostilities to the CIA, alleging that a conference of American diplomats held in Beirut in March was in fact a meeting of intelligence officers who laid plans for a secret war against the "progressive" Arabs. Pravda meanwhile brushed aside Cairo press attacks on the Soviets' failure to help the Arab cause last week, claiming that the press failed to reflect the policies of the Egyptian government, which highly appreciates Soviet material and moral support.

9. The American Embassy in Libya has issued a tentative assessment of the US position in Libya in light of the present crisis. On the positive side, they are pleased that we have been able to maintain diplomatic ties and rights for Wheelus airbase and that the government has been able to regain control after anti-Western and anti-regime agitation. The US has, however, suffered a severe psychological setback in the eyes of the majority of the Libyan population, most of whom believe the rumors of US and UK intervention on Israel's behalf. Nasir's prestige has, despite his military defeat, been vastly enhanced, and the Egyptians can be expected to intensify their efforts to topple not only the Maaziq government but the monarchy itself, as well as to encourage Libyan popular pressures against the continued presence of Wheelus.

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12. At the reconvened meeting of the Security Council this afternoon, the Soviet resolution to "vigorously condemn" Israel for aggression and to demand the withdrawal of its troops behind armistice lines was defeated. The USSR, Bulgaria, Mali, and India voted for the condemnation paragraph and were joined by Nigeria and Ethiopia in the separate vote on withdrawal, and in each case all the other Council members abstained. The USSR clearly anticipated that defeat of the motion would pave the way for the convening of a special session of the General Assembly, and immediately declared that the vote had demonstrated the inability of the Council to deal with the situation.

13. Despite reservations about Soviet motivations and the procedural issues involved, the US has decided not to oppose an Assembly debate which may occur by the end of the week. These reservations are widely shared in UN circles, several delegations having pointed out that the Assembly is restricted by the charter to making recommendations in the present situation and many doubting that it will have much to contribute in the present emotion-laden atmosphere. There have been several reports that even the Arabs have been unimpressed by the Soviet maneuvers, which they regard as largely

propagandistic. Some Latin American delegates have cautioned Ambassador Goldberg that it would be difficult if not impossible to defeat a simple resolution calling for Israeli withdrawal. Others note, however, that the "important question" ruling would apply and that the necessary two-thirds majority therefore required could not be obtained.

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